# General Assembly

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Agenda item 21 (*j*)

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/56/L.37 and Add.1)*]

### 56/48. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity

*The General Assembly*,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

*Bearing in mind* the decisions and declarations adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-seventh ordinary session, held in Lusaka from 9 to 11 July 2001,[2] in particular decision AHG/Dec.160 (XXXVII) on the establishment of the African Union on the basis of the Constitutive Act and a period of transition from Organization of African Unity and African Economic Community to African Union, to allow for the creation of the organs of the African Union,

*Taking note* of declaration AHG/Decl.1 (XXXVII), adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-seventh ordinary session, concerning the adoption of the New African Initiative, now called New Partnership for Africa's Development, following the review by the Implementation Committee of Heads of State and Government in Abuja on 23 October 2001 on sustainable development in Africa,

*Recalling* the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and the agreement on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity,[3] as well as all its resolutions on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, including resolutions 54/94 of 8 December 1999 and 55/218 of 21 December 2000,

*Taking note* of the declarations and decisions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-sixth ordinary session, held in Lomé from 10 to 12 July 2000, in particular declaration AHG/Decl.4 (XXXVI), the Solemn Declaration on the Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa,[4]

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[1] A/56/489.

[2] See A/56/457, annex I.

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 548, No. 614 (Part II).

[4] See A/55/286, annex II.

*Emphasizing* the importance of the effective, coordinated and integrated implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[5] and welcoming in this regard the commitments of Member States to respond to the special needs of Africa,

*Taking note* of the Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-fifth ordinary session, held in Algiers from 12 to 14 July 1999,[6] and the communiqué issued by the Central Organ of the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution of the Organization of African Unity, at its fifth extraordinary session, at the ministerial level, held in New York on 11 November 2001,[7]

*Taking note also* of the declaration of the extraordinary summit meeting of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other related infectious diseases, held in Abuja from 24 to 27 April 2001,[8]

*Acknowledging* the need for continued and closer cooperation between the United Nations and its specialized agencies and the Organization of African Unity and its specialized agencies in the peace and security, political, economic, social, technical, cultural and administrative fields,

*Acknowledging also* the contribution of the United Nations Liaison Office in strengthening coordination and cooperation between the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations since its establishment in Addis Ababa in April 1998 and the need for its consolidation in order to enhance its performance,

*Emphasizing* the need to implement the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council of 18 July 2001 on the role of the United Nations in support of the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable development,[9]

*Emphasizing also* the need to implement urgently its resolution S-26/2 of 27 June 2001 containing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, adopted at its special session on HIV/AIDS, and acknowledging in this respect the commitments of Member States to address the special needs of Africa,

*Noting* the efforts being made by the Organization of African Unity and its specialized agencies and member States in the area of economic integration, and the need to accelerate the process of implementation of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community,[10]

*Noting also* the progress made by the Organization of African Unity in developing the capacity of its Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, and acknowledging in this regard the assistance of the United Nations and the international community,

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[5] See resolution 55/2.

[6] See A/54/424, annex II, AHG/Dec.132 (XXXV).

[7] See S/2001/1061, annex.

[8] OAU/SPS/ABUJA/3.

[9] A/56/3, chap. III, para. 29. For the final text see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 3*.

[10] A/46/651, annex.

*Stressing* the urgent need to address the plight of refugees and internally displaced persons in Africa, and noting in this context the efforts made to implement the recommendations of the Organization of African Unity Ministerial Meeting on Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Africa, held in Khartoum on 13 and 14 December 1998,[11] as well as the endorsement by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its seventy-second session of the Comprehensive Implementation Plan, adopted at the Special Meeting of Governmental and Non-Governmental Technical Experts organized by the Organization of African Unity and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Conakry from 27 to 29 March 2000,[12]

*Recognizing* the importance of developing and maintaining a culture of peace, tolerance and harmonious relationships based on the promotion of economic development, democratic principles, good governance, the rule of law, human rights, social justice and international cooperation,

*Recognizing also* the need to improve coordination and harmonization among the various United Nations initiatives established to assist the development of Africa,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Welcomes* the cooperation existing between the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations and, in this respect, the continuing participation in and constructive contribution of the Organization of African Unity and its specialized agencies to the work of the United Nations, its organs and specialized agencies, and calls upon the two organizations to enhance the involvement of the Organization of African Unity in all United Nations activities concerning Africa;

3. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General closely to involve the Organization of African Unity and its specialized agencies in the implementation of the commitments contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[5] especially those that relate to meeting the special needs of Africa;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, together with the Organization of African Unity, to take the necessary measures for the speedy and effective implementation of the recommendations of the biennial meeting of the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations, held in Addis Ababa on 10 and 11 April 2000, in particular those priority areas specified in section III of the report of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;[13]

5. *Stresses* the need for closer cooperation and coordination between the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations in the area of peace and security, particularly with regard to conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peace-making, post-conflict reconstruction and peace-building and support for the democratization processes and good governance;

6. *Requests* the United Nations to extend full cooperation and support to the Organization of African Unity in the implementation of the Solemn Declaration on the Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa,[4] an initiative which creates a synergy between the various activities currently

[11] A/54/682, annex II.

[12] A/55/286, annex I, CM/Dec.531 (LXXII), para. 8.

[13] See A/55/498.

undertaken by the Organization of African Unity and provides a policy development forum for the elaboration and advancement of common values within the policy organs of the Organization of African Unity;

7. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations Liaison Office with the Organization of African Unity;

8. *Requests* the United Nations, while acknowledging its primary role in the promotion of international peace and security, to intensify its assistance to the Organization of African Unity in strengthening the institutional and operational capacity of its Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, in particular in the following areas:

(*a*) Development of its early warning system, including the Situation Room of the Conflict Management Centre;

(*b*) Technical assistance and training of civilian and military personnel, including a staff exchange programme;

(*c*) Regular and continued exchange and coordination of information, including between the early warning systems of the two organizations;

(*d*) Provision of assistance to field missions of the Organization of African Unity in its various member States, in particular, in the area of communication and other related logistical support;

(*e*) Mobilization of financial support, including through the trust funds of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity;

9. *Urges* the United Nations to encourage donor countries, in consultation with the Organization of African Unity, to contribute to adequate funding, training and logistical support for African countries in their efforts to enhance their peacekeeping capabilities, with a view to enabling those countries to participate actively in peacekeeping operations within the framework of the United Nations;

10. *Also urges* the United Nations to contribute, where appropriate, to the enhancement of the capacity of the Organization of African Unity to deploy peace support missions;

11. *Requests* the agencies of the United Nations system working in Africa to include in their programmes at the national, subregional and regional levels activities to support African countries in their efforts to enhance regional economic cooperation and integration;

12. *Stresses* the urgent need for the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity to develop close cooperation and concrete programmes, aimed at addressing the problems posed by the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and anti-personnel mines, within the framework of the relevant declarations and resolutions adopted by the two organizations, including the Plan of Action on Landmines, adopted at the First Continental Conference of African Experts on Landmines, held at Kempton Park, South Africa, from 19 to 21 May 1997, the Bamako Declaration of 1 December 2000 on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons[14] and the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, adopted by the United Nations

[14] See A/CONF.192/PC/23.

Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York from 9 to 20 July 2001;[15]

13. *Welcomes* the intention of the United Nations, set out in section I of the report of the Secretary-General,[1] to review the programme of cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity in order to address the needs of the African Union during the transitional period;

14. *Calls upon* United Nations agencies to continue to cooperate with the Organization of African Unity in order to facilitate the transition from the Organization of African Unity to the African Union, to intensify the coordination of their regional programmes in Africa to ensure the effective harmonization of their programmes with those of the African regional and subregional economic organizations and to contribute to creating a positive environment for economic development and investment;

15. *Welcomes* the leadership efforts of African leaders to develop an African-owned and African-led framework for action towards the sustainable development of the African continent, and calls upon the United Nations system and the international community to support the New Partnership for Africa's Development[2] and the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council,[9] and the enhancement of the capacity of African countries to take advantage of the opportunities offered by globalization and overcome the challenges it poses, as a means of ensuring sustained economic growth and sustainable development;

16. *Encourages* the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity to collaborate closely in the global fight against terrorism and the implementation of the Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism[6] and the communiqué issued by the Central Organ of the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution;[7]

17. *Calls upon* the United Nations to support actively the efforts of the Organization of African Unity in urging the donor community and, where appropriate, multilateral institutions to strive to meet the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance, to implement fully, speedily and effectively the enhanced programme of debt relief for the heavily indebted poor countries, and to achieve the goal of securing debt relief in a comprehensive and effective manner in favour of African countries through various national and international measures designed to make their debt sustainable in the long term;

18. *Calls upon* all Member States and regional and international organizations, in particular those of the United Nations system, as well as non-governmental organizations, to provide additional assistance to the Organization of African Unity and those Governments in Africa concerned with the problems of refugees, returnees and displaced persons;

19. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to ensure the effective and equitable representation of African men and women at senior and policy levels at their respective headquarters and in their regional fields of operation;

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[15] See A/CONF.192/15, para. 24.

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*80th plenary meeting*
*7 December 2001*